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Mining Regulations & Reclamation
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State of Nevada
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

August 27, 2004

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for the renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) NEV0091029 for the **North Block Project** has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for the renewal of WPCP NEV0091029 is:

Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.
P.O. Box 29
Elko, NV 89803

The facility is located in the Little Boulder Basin adjacent to the Tuscarora Mountain Range on the county line between Elko and Eureka Counties, approximately 27 miles northwest of the community of Carlin, Nevada. The North Block facilities are located within Section 13, Township 36 North, Range 49 East, and Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, Township 36 North, Range 50 East, Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian (MDB&M). The Goldstrike underground mining operations at Meikle and Rodeo are included under this permit. Except for the former emergency pond, the leach pad (Phase I), process ponds, and gold adsorption plant were closed in preparation for the roaster facility. The emergency pond is now used to store fresh water for use in the roaster operations and provide full containment of runoff resulting from the 100-year, 24-hour storm event from the stockpiles. The leached material from the Phase I heap was placed within the North Block tailings impoundment. The other two proposed leach pad phases were never built. Instead, sulfide ore stockpile pads and associated containment ponds, two parallel roaster circuits, and a carbon-in-leach circuit, have been built and are in operation. The tailings facilities primarily include the subaerial tailings impoundment in the North Block, a drainage collection and return sump, drainage collection (overflow) pond, and pipelines. The project is designed, constructed, and will be operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events that exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the water pollution control permit, or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue the permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation in the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 445A, must submit their comments, objections, or requests no later than **September 29, 2004**, to:

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this application. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The permit renewal information and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information contact Bob Carlson at (775) 687-9401, or toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900 ext. 4670, or visit the Bureau's website at <http://ndep.state.nv.us/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.